

Status of the claims

Claims 9-20 are withdrawn. Therefore, claims 1-8 are now pending.

REMARKS

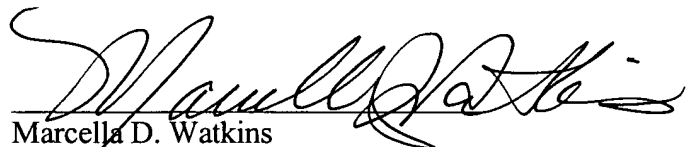
Applicants acknowledge the Office Action dated August 5, 2005. In response, Applicants elect without traverse to prosecute the species of Group I, claims 1-8, and respectfully withdraw from current consideration unelected claims 9-20 without prejudice.

Applicants have elected to prosecute the group of species designated by the Examiner as Group I – claims 9-20. Applicant respectfully looks forward to the Examiner's substantive action on these claims.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have fully responded to the Office Action. If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or otherwise feels it would be advantageous, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (713) 238-8043.

Respectfully submitted,



Marcella D. Watkins
PTO Reg. No. 36,962
Conley Rose, P.C.
P.O. Box 3267
Houston, Texas 77253-3267
(713) 238-8000

AGENT FOR APPLICANTS